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1151

Justice League of America

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JULY 2009

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Robinson & Bagley Join the League

Big changes are coming to ***Justice League of America*** starting in October—changes that begin with a new creative team, expand to include a new superheroic team, and culminate in a new focus for the flagship superteam book of the DCU.

Beginning with ***Justice League of America #38***, *James Robinson, Mark Bagley, & Rob Hunter* will take over the best-selling title, launching with a storyline that will have links to Robinson's current miniseries ***Justice League: Cry for Justice***. "It's a thrill to be given the reins of DC's flagship team book and to know that my partner in crime(fighting) will be the esteemed *Mark Bagley*, whose dynamic storytelling skills I intend to make full use of," Robinson said. "It's further exciting/gratifying for me that I can dove-tail the events of ***Cry For Justice*** into the main book where post-***Blackest Night*** will emerge a new team and a new exciting direction as they get caught up in the next wave of events building throughout the DCU."

Justice League of America will be *Mark Bagley's* next major project for DC after his recent completion of the year-long ***Trinity*** weekly book. Bagley is currently working with writer *Judd Winick* and inker *Rob Hunter* on a four-part story arc that begins in ***Batman #688***; that arc will wrap up just prior to Bagley and Hunter take over the art honors on ***JLA***.

"I had been talking with DC about doing a Justice League project for a while now," Bagley told ***CSN***. "Before I had finished ***Trinity***, DC offered me a second ***Justice League*** title that was in the planning stages; at the time, I would have been working with *Greg Rucka* on the new title, while *Geoff Johns* would have been writing the first series. As plans developed, though, the whole idea of the second series was put on hold. DC wanted to do just one ***Justice League*** title, and they wanted me to illustrate it.

"Once they told me that *James Robinson* was going to write the book, I knew that this was something I definitely wanted to be a part of. Even better, they wanted *Rob Hunter*, who's doing a great job inking me on my ***Batman*** story, to ink my ***Justice League of America*** work. I couldn't be happier!"

While DC offered no information on the new lineup or the plot of the first Robinson-Bagley story arc, it is noteworthy that the cover for ***Justice League of America #38*** features an image of the superhero Trinity (Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman)—an image that echoes the Bagley image used just over a year ago to promote ***Trinity!***

Justice League of America #38 is slated for October release—but you can be sure that ***CSN*** will have a lot more to tell you between now and then about this series revamp!

CSNsider

•Not only is the Ben Reilly clone saga the focus of a new six-issue "writer's cut" series ***Spider-Man: The Clone Saga*** that's mentioned in this week's ***Coming Comics*** section, but Reilly will also be a major part of *Marc Guggenheim's* "Who Is Ben Reilly?" arc slated for October's ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 608 & 609***. "The original genesis of the story was that I was asking myself, 'Has there ever been a Spidey villain who went after Peter Parker because he was Peter Parker?'" Guggenheim explained.

•*Kieron Gillen & Cary Nord* propel Ares into the spotlight in the three-issue ***Dark Avengers: Ares*** miniseries. "It's specifically focusing on what other stuff Ares has been up to since he's been a Dark Avenger while not actively being in the field," Gillen said. "The sort of vibe for it is like ***Generation Kill*** if instead of embedding a journalist, they dropped in a man who fought at Troy. We pick up with Ares in the middle of training his HAMMER agents... Things turn messier when he decides to take his team out on their first mission."

•The current ***Moon Knight*** series is leaving the Marvel schedule, to be replaced by a new monthly series, ***Vengeance of the Moon Knight***, produced by *Gregg Hurtwitz & Jerome Opena*. "When last we saw him, Moon Knight was put on the run by Osborn & Co., and he's been down in Mexico biding his time," Hurtwitz said. "But he also came into a boatload of cash. So he's been stealthily making plans. And we're gonna learn about those plans when he explodes in the first issue."

▪DC Senior Story Editor *Ian Sattler* said that *Grant Morrison's* next major DCU project, ***The Multiversity***, should launch in 2010, but offered no specifics about the series.

▪*Mark Waid* is working on a new Stephen Strange series, ***Strange***, slated for October release. Now that he's no longer the Sorcerer Supreme, "nothing comes as naturally and easily for him as it used to," Waid said. "In that sense, it feels like a little bit of a comedown for him. He's no longer automatically connected to the mystical energies that whip around the Marvel Universe. He's no longer connected in that sense, so he has to work at it the same as he did when he first started."

▪The X-Babies of the Mojoverse are coming back in ***X-Babies***, an October-debuting all-ages miniseries by *Gregg Schiegel & Jacob Chabot*—and this time, not alone. The X-Babies miniseries will feature Planet Terry, Wally the Wizard, Royal Roy, and Top Dog—all of whom were at one time stars in their own Star Comics titles (for those who haven't read comics long enough to remember, Star was Marvel's young-readers line).

"The main nemesis of the piece is a new character with, like many villains, what on the surface might be very good intentions," Schiegel told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "But he's a bad guy, so those intentions are skewed. As a result, the X-Babies have to take care of business. We're bring the Star Comics characters into the Marvel Universe proper in as much as the X-Babies are part of the Marvel Universe proper. In this story they're primarily obstacles in the X-Babies' mission...at least at the start... What we're hoping to do is kind of sort of reinvent or reinterpret these characters a bit (okay, more than a bit)..."

•Rick Remender is the writer of ***Doctor Voodoo: Avenger of the Supernatural***, a new ongoing series debuting from Marvel in October that stars the former Brother Voodoo, now the possessor of the Eye of Agomotto.

•Spidey faces some of the most powerful foes of his career in "The Gauntlet," a story arc that launches in November's ***Amazing Spider-Man #611***. "It begins with Electro," Waid said. "We spent the first couple of years introducing a bunch of new characters and not to hearken back to the days of your, but now, there's a pent up demand for the villains like Electro and Rhino and a lot of guys you haven't seen for a while....it's called the Gauntlet for a reason..."

•*Daniel Way & Richard Corben* take Marvel back into the realm of sword and sorcery with ***Starr the Slayer***, a miniseries slated to launch this fall.

•This fall, Marvel unveils ***Dark Reign: The List***, a series of oneshots featuring Norman Osborn taking on Marvel heroes. The eight specials include ***Avengers*** by *Brian Bendis & Marko Djurdjevic*; ***Uncanny X-Men*** by *Matt Fraction & Alan Davis*;

•*Jeff Katz* has announced the first comics projects that will be published under his American Original imprint in conjunction with Top Cow Productions. The books include ***Vengeance Is Mine*** by *Jeff Katz & Thomas Nachlik*, described by Katz as "a revenge movie in the underworld itself"; ***Daybreak***, "the mother of all prison break concepts" by *Gary Whitta, Brian Lynch, & Macro Castiello*; and ***Blastosaurus***, *Richard Fairgray's* tale of a crime-fighting dinosaur in the future. Also in the works is ***Comedy Deathray Anthology***, edited by *Scott Aukerman*, a humor project written by comedians. Look for all four books in late 2009.

Secret Warriors by *Jonathan Hickman & Ed McGuinness*; ***Punisher*** by *Rick Remender & John Romita Jr.*; ***Daredevil*** by *Andy Diggle & Billy Tan*; ***Wolverine*** by *Jason Aaron & Esad Ribic*; ***Hulk*** by *Greg Pak & Ben Oliver*; and ***Amazing Spider-Man*** by *Dan Slott & Adam Kubert*.

•Psylocke gets her own four-part miniseries in November, courtesy of *Christopher Yost & Harvey Tolibao*.

•Bluewater Productions has landed the right to produce new ***Logan's Run*** comics

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based on *William F. Nolan's* best-selling novel that inspired a film, a television series, and a comic book. ***Logan's Run: Lastday***, written by Hollywood screenwriter *Paul J. Salamoff* with art by *Daniel Gete* , is slated for late 2009 release. It's the first of three Nolan projects that Bluewater will publish; the other two include a series base don his novel ***Seven for Space*** (featuring Nolan's futuristic private eye Sam Space) and an exclusive new title created by Nolan specifically for Bluewater; the latter two titles will debut in 2010.

•*Eric Shanower* has confirmed that he and artist *Skottie Young* are paying another visit to Oz beginning in November, when they launch ***The Marvelous Land of Oz***, an eight-issue miniseries based on the *L. Frank Baum* novel.

•According to DC Executive Editor *Dan DiDio*, Doc Savage will be featured in a monthly series set in an alternate DC Universe that is a blend the modern era and the classic pulp era—a universe where he will work alongside and interact with characters such as Blackhawk and the Spirit. *Brian Azzarello* is the writer for the series, which will be illustrated by *Rags Morales*.

•The Marvel Zombies are returning this fall in a five-issue weekly series written by *Fred Van Lente, Jonathan Maberry, David Wellington, & Seth Grahame; Arthur Suydam* is back to supply cover images.

•*Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray,* and artist *Tony DeZuniga* are working on an original ***Jonah Hex*** graphic novel in conjunction with the upcoming film.

•*Sam Kieth* is working on a new Lobo story.

Barnes to Be Wild

Sean McKeever is back at Marvel... and he's hanging out with Rikki Barnes.

Readers recently re-met Barnes in the pages of ***Captain America #600***; the female Bucky, who lived in an alternate Earth created by Franklin Richards during ***Heroes Reborn***, became a part of this world in the pages of ***Onslaught Reborn***.

This fall, Barnes will star in ***Nomad: Girl Without a World***, McKeever's first Marvel project since he wrapped up his exclusive tenure with DC.

"What she's trying to do is make her life on this earth as much like the other earth as she can, in certain sense, so that she feels like she's a little more grounded," McKeever explained to ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "She doesn't want to become lost in this world that she understands but doesn't know. She's set up a false identity for herself, and she's going to high school because she's found a school where her brother goes to school. It's this earth's version of her brother, so it's not quite the same guy, and we'll explore that in the mini-series -- what her brother was like in her world and what he's like here.

"And she also desperately wants to meet Captain America. In ***Captain America #600***, we saw that she wants to meet Cap, and Patriot tells her, well, you're not going to be his sidekick. And he doesn't exactly want to see a Bucky right now... At the end of ***Onslaught Reborn***, what made her realize she wasn't in her own world anymore was that she saw the old newspapers about Cap's assassination after ***Civil War***. So she knows that there's another guy running around as Captain America and she'd really like to meet him."

McKeever is now working for both Marvel and DC. "I was offered an exclusive renewal for DC for a couple of years, but I ultimately turned it down because I just felt, at this point in my career, it would be nice to open up some possibilities. I had a great time at DC, but now it's time to see what else is out there."

McKeever assured readers that this isn't just a teenage human interest title. "It's not going to focus largely on her school life. It will have her school in it, but that's because the main plot has to do with something that's happening in her school. But her story will be told by way of Captain America, as written by Brubaker. So she's plucky and there's high school, but she's also tough. There's going to be grit, but there's going to be some relationship stuff and emotions. It's a character-driven story."

Nomad is slated to debut in October.

Coming Comics—Marvel in September

Zeb Wells & Paulo Siqueira continue the story of Eddie Brock in ***Amazing Spider-Man Presents Anti-Venom—New Ways to Live #1***. With his life saved by Spider-Man, Eddie is cautiously walking the line between the darkness and light... so the absolute last person he needs to run into is the Punisher. Unfortunately, the Punisher remembers Eddie as a cold-blooded killer...

Captain America: Reborn #3 continues the saga of Steve Rogers' return to the Marvel Universe, courtesy of *Ed Brubaker, Bryan Hitch, & Butch Guice*.

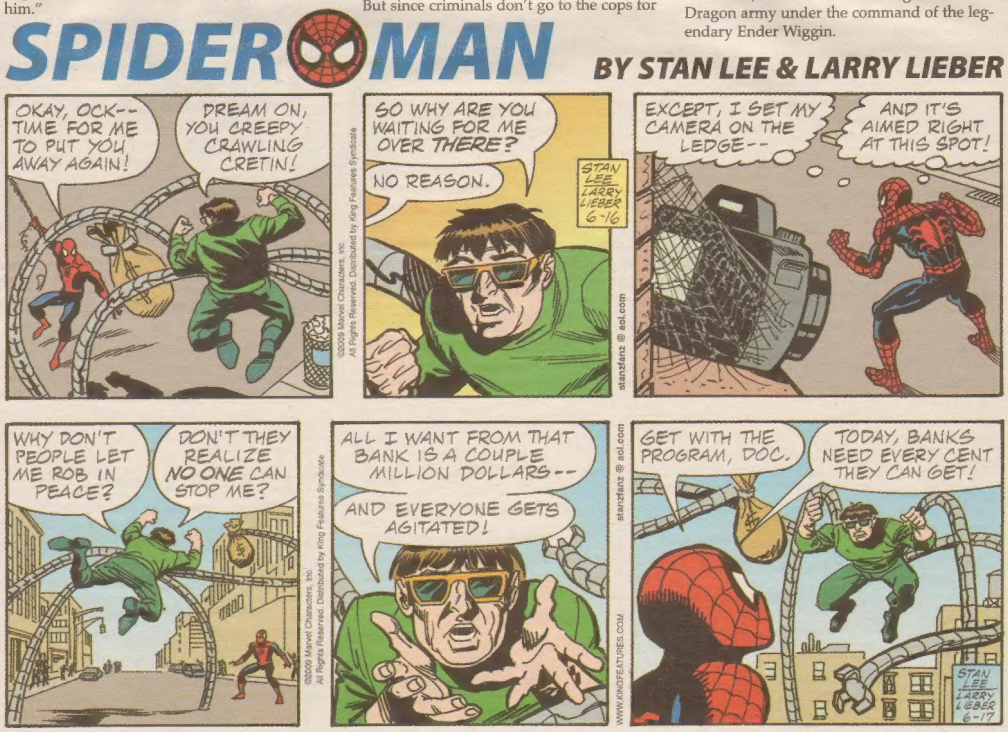
After wrapping up ***Incognito*** in August, *Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips* return to their other acclaimed creator-owned series with ***Criminal: The Sinners #1***, spotlighting ***Criminal's*** most popular character, Tracy Lawless. It's been a year since Tracy was forced into working for the bad guys, and now made men are turning up dead all over the city, in what appears to be mob-style hits. But since criminals don't go to the cops for justice... only Tracy can solve this crime.

The confrontation between the Dark Avengers and the X-Men comes to a head in ***Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men: Exodus*** by *Matt Fraction & Mike Deodato*.

Frank Tieri joins forces with five artists to reveal how the changes wrought by ***Dark Reign*** have affected such criminals as Spymaster, Attuma, Jack O'Lantern, Gamma Corps, and the Enforcer in the 48-page ***Dark Reign: Made Men***.

Emma Frost's secret dealings with the Cabal come to light in ***Dark X-Men: The Confession***, written by *Craig Kyle & Christopher Yost*.

The second volume of *Orson Scott Card's* sci-fi epic begins in ***Ender's Game: Command School #1*** by *Christopher Yost & Pasqual Ferry*. At the same time, Marvel also launches the companion series, ***Ender's Shadow: Command School #1***, in which Bean is assigned to the Dragon army under the command of the legendary Ender Wiggin.


SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
OKAY, OCK-- TIME FOR ME TO PUT YOU AWAY AGAIN!
DREAM ON, YOU CREEPY CRAWLING CRETIN!
SO WHY ARE YOU WAITING FOR ME OVER THERE?
NO REASON.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-16
EXCEPT, I SET MY CAMERA ON THE LEDGE--
AND IT'S AIMED RIGHT AT THIS SPOT!
WHY DON'T PEOPLE LET ME ROB IN PEACE?
DON'T THEY REALIZE NO ONE CAN STOP ME?
ALL I WANT FROM THAT BANK IS A COUPLE MILLION DOLLARS--
AND EVERYONE GETS AGITATED!
GET WITH THE PROGRAM, DOC.
TODAY, BANKS NEED EVERY CENT THEY CAN GET!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-17
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EDITORS
Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com

The Red Hulk takes on Wolverine in ***Hulk #15*** by *Jeph Loeb & Ian Churchill*, a landmark issue that also guest-stars Deadpool, Elektra, the Punisher, and more.

Hulk Team-Up features two standalone tales: one featuring the Hulk, Iceman, and the Angel, the other featuring the Hulk and Dazzler.

The Incredible Hulk and his son Skaar join forces to take on one of Marvel's most unstoppable villains, the Juggernaut, in ***Incredible Hulk #602*** by *Greg Pak & Ariel Olivetti*. This issue also features a Savage She-Hulk backup tale that pits Lyra against the all-new Gamma Corps Black.

Marvel offers a handbook to the company's founding year in ***Marvel Mystery Handbook 70th Anniversary Special***, which features well-known heroes like the Sub-Mariner, the Human Torch, the Angel, and Ka-Zar, as well as lesser-known characters as the Phantom Bullet, Electro, Whirlwind Carter, Taxi Taylor, and more.

The Marvel Super Hero Squad is on its way to television as an animated feature—but *Paul Tobin & Dario Brizuela* aren't going to make you wait. They have a new tale of the defenders of Super Hero City in ***Marvel Super Hero Squad #1***, the kickoff of a four-part miniseries.

Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting continue their presentation of the definitive origins of the first wave of Marvel heroes in ***The Marvels Project #2***, which features the Human Torch, the Angel, the Sub-Mariner, and a young soldier named Nick Fury.

In *Ryan Dunlavey's* ***MODOK: Reign Delay***, MODOK moves back into his parent's house in Erie, Pennsylvania and discovers that his family, old classmates and apathetic locals can thwart his plans for world conquest better than any super hero.

The only woman who can hope to defeat Norman Osborn refuses to fight, and it's Moonstone triumphant as War of the Marvels reaches its penultimate episode in *Brian Reed & Sana Takeda's* ***Ms. Marvel #45***.

Deadpool takes on Shang-Chi in a kung-fu motorcycle race in ***Shang-Chi: Master of Kung-Fu***, a black and white oneshot that features this tale along with two other comics tales and a prose story by *Robin Furth*.

Trapped in the throes of a hypnotic spell, Spider-Man's gone psycho and he wants to grind Frank Castle's bones to paste! Now Castle has to figure out just how to respond to an assault from one of Marvel's heroes in ***Punisher Annual #1*** by *Rick Remender & Jason Pearson*.

Skaar sets his sights on one of the most powerful adversaries in the Marvel Universe when he seeks vengeance against Galactus for devouring his homeworld. See how he plans to take down a being with planet-destroying capabilities in ***Son of Hulk #15*** by *Paul Jenkins & Andres Guinaldo Isabel*.

Marvel revisits one of the most controversial storylines of the 1990s in ***Spider-Man: The Clone Saga***, a six-part "writer's cut" by *Howard Mackie, Tom DeFalco, & Todd Nauck* that reworks the saga of Ben Reilly in order to present it as it was originally intended.

After a delay of a few months, *Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev* are ready to launch Jessica Drew's ongoing series, ***Spider-Woman***. Witness her reentry into society as an agent of SWORD in this long-awaited reunion of the creators of some of the most acclaimed tales in ***Daredevil*** history.

In the three-part ***Strange Tales*** miniseries, Marvel enlists the aid of some of indy comics' most acclaimed talents—including *Paul Pope, Peter Bagge, Junko Mizuno, James Kochalka, Dash Shaw, Johnny Ryan, Nick Bertozzi,* and *Jason*—to present some of the quirkiest tales of Marvel superheroes you'll *ever* see... including the long-awaited *Peter Bagge* "Incorrigible Hulk," serialized over the three-issue run.

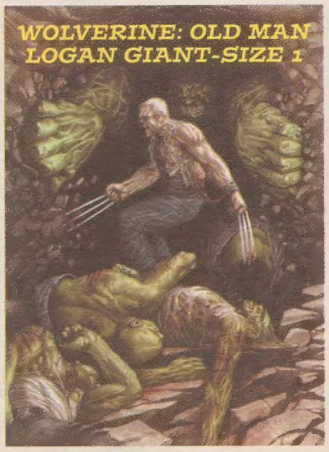
Mike Carey, Alex Ross, & Patrick Berkenkotter reignite interest in one of Marvel's original heroes in ***The Torch***, an eight-part series. As the tale begins, the Torch is dead—buried with full military honors. But what does death mean for an artificial man? The Mad Thinker is determined to find out, with the reluctant help of the Torch's best and oldest friend - Tom Raymond, aka Toro.

Exiled from Asgard, the mighty Thor has to confront old enemies of the Egyptian pantheon in ***Thor Annual #1*** by *Peter Milligan, Mico Suayan, & Clay Mann*.

In the aftermath of ***Ultimatum***, Tony Stark races against time to save his crippled corporation and stop the theft of his armored arsenal in the four-part ***Ultimate Comics Armor Wars*** by *Warren Ellis & STeve Kurth*.

Reeling over his near-fatal encounter with the Red Skull, Captain America takes matters into his own hands in ***Ultimate Comics Avengers #2*** by *Mark Millar & Carlos Pacheco*. Meanwhile, Nick Fury reveals the horrifying truth behind the Red Skull and kick-starts Project Avengers in earnest with the arrival of Gregory Stark, Tony's older, richer and smarter brother!

The confrontation between Norman Osborn and James Rhodes comes to a head as Iron Patriot and War Machine finally throw down in ***War Machine #10*** by *Greg Pak & Allan Jefferson*. And by the end of this issue, only one armored giant will remain standing!

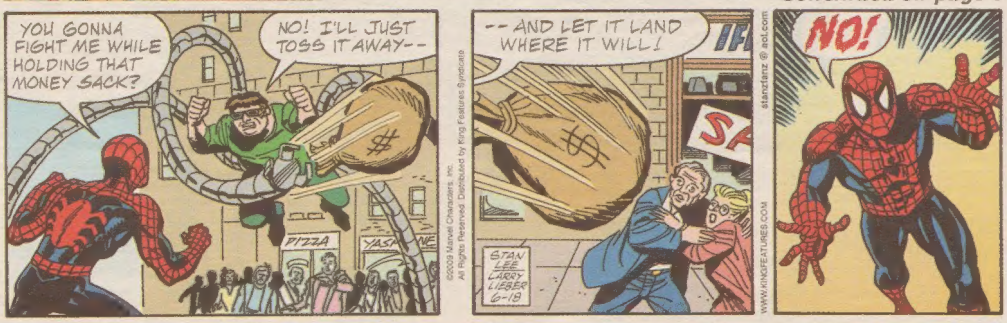


At long last, *Mark Millar & Steve McNiven* are ready to wrap up their best-selling "Old Man Logan" story arc in a tale that's too big for a standard comic—so they're presenting it in the 64-page ***Wolverine: Old Man Logan Giant-Size #1***. Prepare yourselves for the most brutal battle in the history of comics as Wolverine returns— and unleashes a tidal wave of bloody revenge! It's Wolverine versus the Hulk Gang to the death!

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Avengers/Invaders HC***, collecting the twelve-parter by *Jim Krueger, Alex Ross, & Steve Sadowski*.

Continued on page 6


YOU GONNA FIGHT ME WHILE HOLDING THAT MONEY SACK?
NO! I'LL JUST TOSS IT AWAY--
PIZZA
-- AND LET IT LAND WHERE IT WILL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-18
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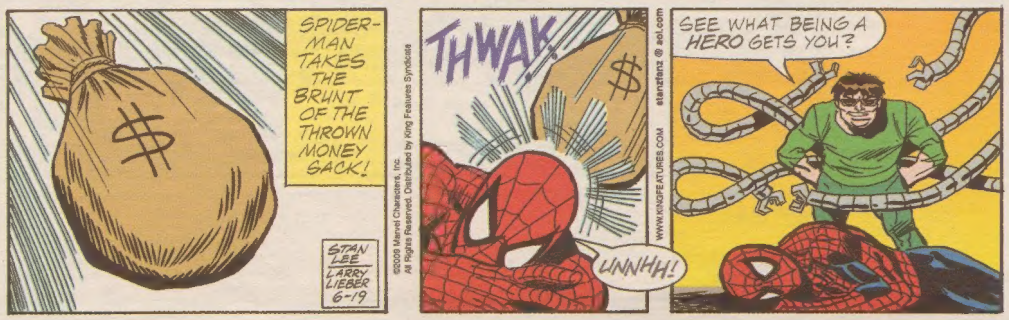
SPIDER-MAN TAKES THE BRUNT OF THE THROWN MONEY SACK!
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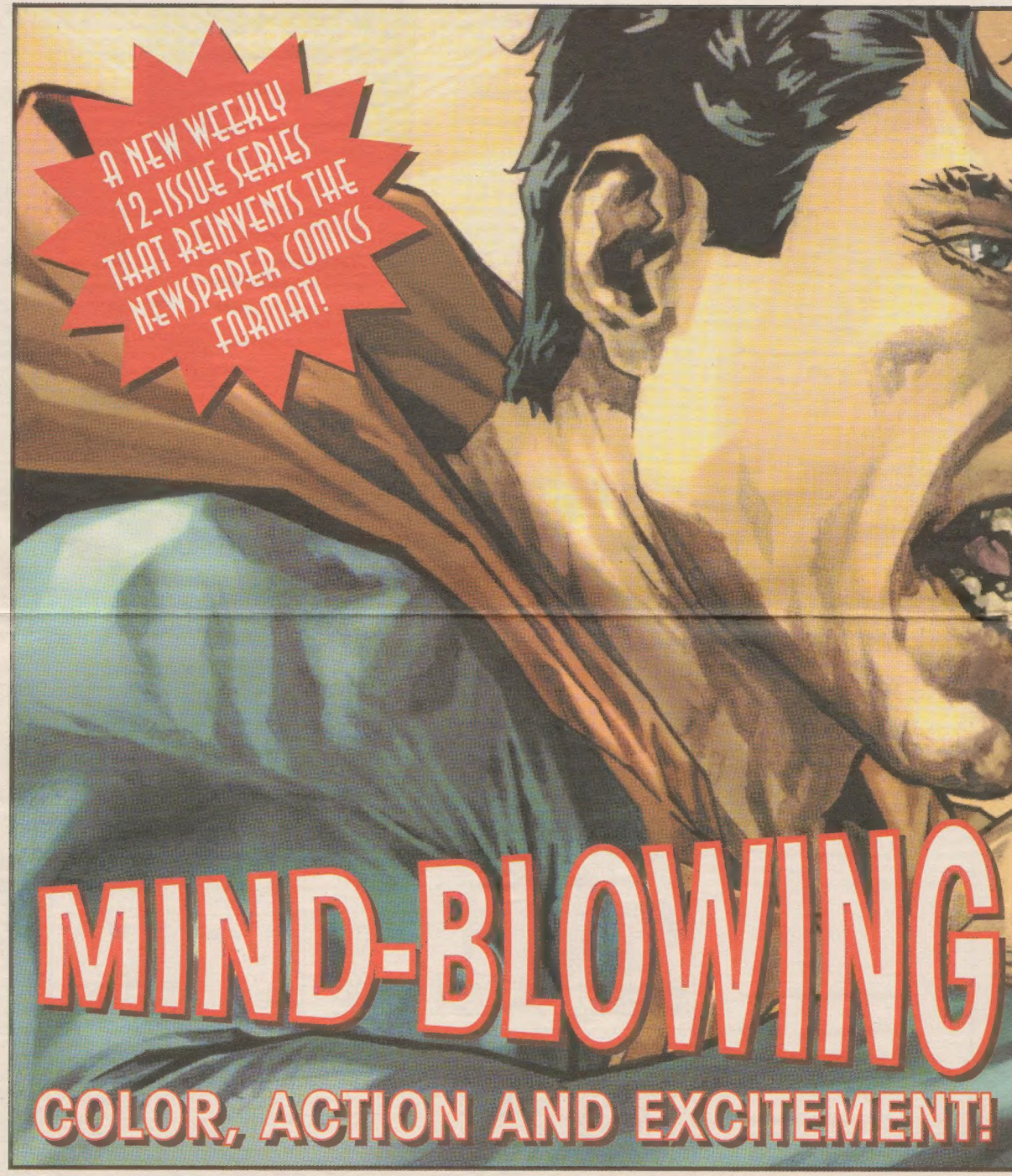
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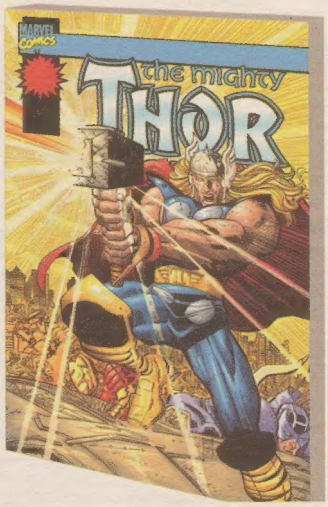
N BEN CALDWELL **GREEN LANTERN** KURT BUSIEK & JOE QUIÑONES **TEEN TITANS** EDDIE BERGANZA & SEAN GALLOWAY
THE FLASH KARL KERSCHL & BRENDEN FLETCHER **METAL MEN** DAN DIDIO, JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ & KEVIN NOWLAN

•***Black Panther: The Deadliest of the Species Premiere HC***, collecting ***Black Panther #s 1-6***.
•***Captain America: The Man With No Face TP***, collecting ***Captain America #s 43-48***.
•***Captain Britain & MI13 Volume 3: Vampire State TP***, collecting ***#s 10-15 & Annual #1***.
•***Criminal: The Deluxe Edition***, a 400-page hardcover collecting ***Criminal Books 1-3***, along with oodles of extras.
•***Daredevil by Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev Omnibus Volume 2 HC***, collecting ***Daredevil #s 61-81***, ***Daredevil: Ninja #s 1-3***, and ***What If Karen Page Had Lived?***
•***Deadpool Volume 2: Dark Reign Premiere HC***, collecting ***Deadpool #s 6, 7, & 10-12***.
•***Deadpool: Suicide Kings HC***, collecting the five-part miniseries and the ***Games of Death*** oneshot.
•***Essential Sub-Mariner Volume 1 TP***, collecting ***Daredevil #7***, ***Tales to Astonish #s 70-101***, ***Tales of Suspense #80***, ***Iron Man & Sub-Mariner #1***, and ***Sub-Mariner #1***.

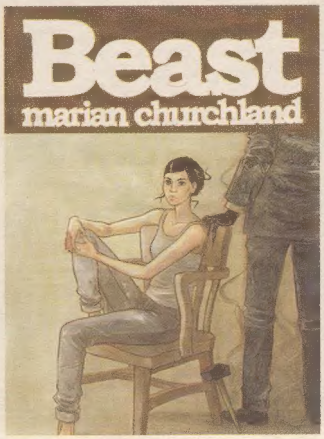
•***Fantastic Four: Lost Adventures by Stan Lee TP***, collecting ***The Last FF Story***, ***FF: Lost***, ***Fantastic Four #s 296 & 543***.
•***Fantastic Four: The Master of Doom Premiere HC***, collecting ***FF #s 562-569***.
•***Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2: War of Kings Book 1 TP***, collecting ***Guardians of the Galaxy #s 7-12***.
•***Hulk: Planet Skaar HC***, collecting ***Skaar #s 7-12*** and ***Planet Skaar Prologue***.
•***Hulk: Skaar—Son of Hulk TP***, collecting ***Skaar #s 1-6*** and more.
•***Incredible Hercules: Dark Reign Premiere HC***, collecting ***Incredible Hercules #s 126-131***.
•***Marvel 1602 Premiere HC***, a reissue of the *Neil Gaiman-Andy Kubert* miniseries.
•***Marvel Masterworks The Avengers Volume 2 TP***, collecting ***Avengers #s 11-20***.
•***Marvel Masterworks Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD Volume 2 HC***, collecting *Jim Steranko's* work from ***Strange Tales #s 154-168*** and ***Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD #s 1-3***.
•***Marvel Super Hero Squad: Hero UP***, collecting the oneshot and the comic strips seen on marvelkids.com.
•***Marvel Zombies/Army of Darkness TP***, collecting the five-part crossover.
•***Ms. Marvel Volume 7: Dark Reign Premiere HC***, collecting ***Ms. Marvel #s 35-41***.
•***Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume 10 Premiere HC***, with a whole lotta S characters.
•***Savage She-Hulk TP***, collecting ***Savage She-Hulk #s 1-4*** and more.
•***Thor by Dan Jurgens & John Romita Jr.***



Volume 1 TP, collecting ***Thor #s 1-8*** and ***Peter Parker #2***.
•***Ultimatum Premiere HC***, collecting the five-parter by *Jeph Loeb & David Finch*.
•***Ultimatum: Requiem Premiere HC***, collecting ***Spider-Man Requiem #s 1 & 2***, ***FF Requiem #1***, & ***X-Men Requiem #1***.
•***Ultimatum: Spider-Man Premiere HC***, collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 129-133 & Annual #3***.
•***Wolverine: Weapon X Files TP***, collecting ***Weapon X Files & Wolverine Encyclopedia #s 1-3***.
•***X-Men Origins HC***, collecting ***Colossus***, ***Jean Gray***, ***Beast***, ***Wolverine***, ***Sabretooth***, and ***Gambit***.
•***X-Men Vs. Avengers Premiere HC***, collecting the four-part miniseries.
•***X-Men Vs. Fantastic Four Premiere HC***, collecting the 1980's crossover series.
•***X-Men: Magneto—Testament TP***, collecting the five-part miniseries.

Back to Press

•***Captain America #600*** (APR098394, in stores July 15th)
•***Amazing Spider-Man #596*** (MAY098040, in stores July 22nd)
•***Amazing Spider-Man #597*** (MAY098041, in stores July 22nd)
•***Invincible Iron Man #14*** (MAY098070, in stores July 22nd)
•***Ultimate Spider-Man Requiem #1*** (MAY098068, in stores July 22nd)
•***Uncanny X-Men #510*** (MAY098042, in stores July 22nd)
•***Uncanny X-Men #511*** (MAY098069, in stores July 22nd)

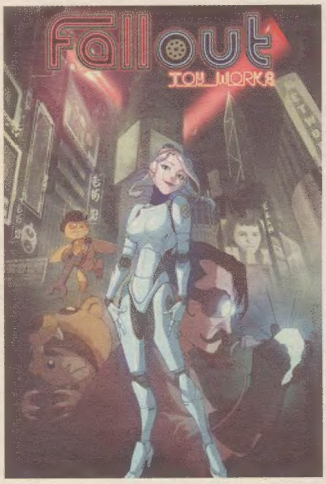


Coming Comics—Image in September

In *Marian Churchland's* ***The Beast GN***, a young sculptor is hired by a mysterious client to carve his portrait out of marble. She soon learns that the client is actually a shadowy creature, and the block of marble has a long history that threatens to engulf her entirely.

Jimmie Robinson returns to the world of supervillainy with ***Bomb Queen VI***, a four-parter that pits the Bomb Queen against Barack Obama.

Antony Johnston & Ben Templesmith offer comics readers an advance look into the world of the upcoming Wii title in the oneshot ***Dead Space: Extraction***.



Brett Lewis, *Sam Basri*, & *Imaginary Friends Studios* launch a miniseries inspired by the music of Fall Out Boy in the pages of ***Fall Out Toy Works***.

Josh WAgner & Camilla D'Errico bring the world of the Nintendo DS game to comics in ***Sky Pirates of Neo Terra***.

Todd McFarlane & Whilce Portacio reveal Spawn's identity to the public in ***Spawn #196***.

Steve Lieber, illustrator of the *Greg Rucka* written suspense-thriller ***Whiteout***, teams with writer *Jeff Parker* to present the four-part ***Underground***. The story focuses on a park ranger and avid caver who becomes involved in an effort to stop a local cave from being

A SACK FULL OF MONEY CAN BE DOWNRIGHT HEAVY--AS SPIDER-MAN JUST LEARNED!
FEEL... SO GROGGY...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-20
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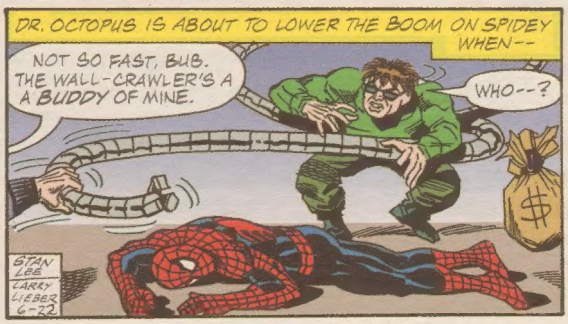
DR. OCTOPUS IS ABOUT TO LOWER THE BOOM ON SPIDEY WHEN--
NOT SO FAST, BUB. THE WALL-CRAWLER'S A BUDDY OF MINE.
WHO--?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-22
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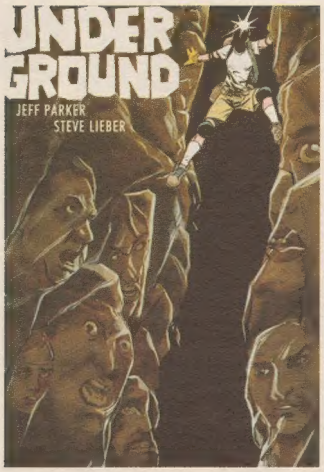


transformed into a tourist trap... but the situation soon spirals out of control.

Image collected volumes include:

- ***I Hate Gallant Girl***, collecting the three-issue miniseries and the ***Bomb Queen Presents All Girl Comics*** oneshot.
- ***Invincible Ultimate Collection Volume 5 HC***, collecting ***Invincible #s 49-60***.
- ***Jack Staff Volume 4: Rocky Realities***, collecting ***Jack Staff #s 13-20 & Special #1***.

- ***Ripclaw Volume 1 TP***, collecting the miniseries plus ***Ripclaw Pilot Season***.
- ***Spawn Origins Volume 3***, collecting ***Spawn #s 15-20***.
- ***The Sword Volume 3: Earth TP***, collecting ***The Sword #s 13-18***.

Boom! Goes the Mouse & the Duck

Boom! Studios, the company that has found so much success with their recent line of Disney/Pixar titles such as ***The Incredibles***, ***Cars***, and ***Toy Story***, has landed the most prized of all Disney gems: the rights to publish comics starring Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. The publisher will debut their licensed titles in September with the release of ***Wald Disney's Comics and Stories #699*** and ***Mickey Mouse & Friends #297***. Both books will feature new-to-American-readers stories by Italian creators working for Disney Italia.

Richie said that Boom's immediate plan for the license is to start telling new stories, much like they have done with ***The Incredibles***, ***Cars***, ***The Muppets***, and others. "The Gemstone material that was being printed most recently are some of the greatest comics in the world – you're talking about *Carl Barks* and *Don Rosa* and all these incredible creators, but what we're going to be doing is branching off and going in a completely different direction," Richie told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "We're going to start to approach the Mickey and Donald material from a completely different direction, and we're going to try to have something that at the same time is less the 'greatest hits' reprints and more dovetails into what the Boom Kids stuff is, which is sort of an add to and extension of, modern creative take on these classic characters that I think can connect with kids today."

Richie confirmed that Boom! has plans to complement their line of new books with collections of classic material. "We're not going to abandon the fans that are buying that material, so we will have programs and products for them," Richie said.

Henson Properties: Archaia's "Jim" Stone

In its years of publication, Archaia has published a number of acclaimed creator-owned books, but the publishing company's generating a lot of buzz with news of its first major licensing deal—a deal that brings numerous Jim Henson Company properties to Archaia.

Beginning with a new ***Fraggle Rock*** comic starting later this year, readers will see new stories spotlighting properties like ***The Dark Crystal***, ***Labyrinth***, ***Mirrormask***, and ***The Storyteller***.

"For us, it takes away a lot of restrictions both creative and budgetary on storytelling and allows us to tell these stories right," said *Joe LeFavi*, Director of Publishing and Development at The Jim Henson Company, who emphasized the stories will not be adaptations, but will instead tell new stories. "In features and on TV, you only have a set amount of time and a limited budget to explore that world. And if you think about worlds like that—***Dark Crystal***, ***Labyrinth***, ***Mirrormask***—those are huge, vast worlds. So here, with a comic book, you can spend months there. If you wanted to see a $500 million Henson film, this is how you can do it. Do it through a graphic novel."

Archaia will be the second company producing licensed projects based on Henson properties; Boom Studios has already launched ***Farscape*** projects, as well as ***Muppets*** books (while the Muppets were created by Henson, they have since been acquired by Disney).

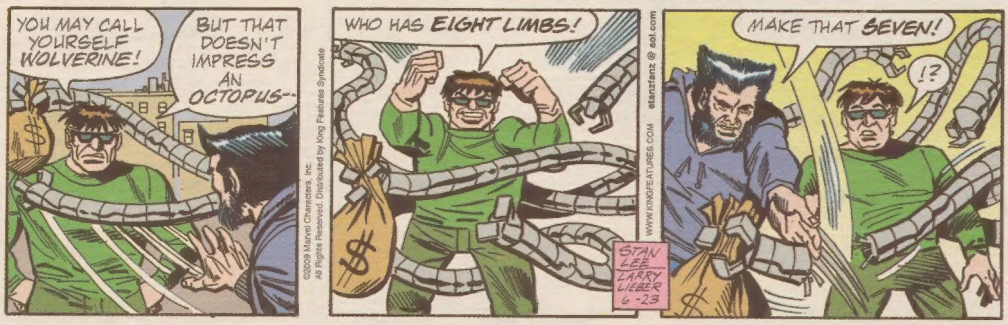
The deal came about thanks in large part to Archaia's hiring of *Stephen Christy* as its new director of development. Christy, who had previously developed intellectual properties for Devil's Due, had met LeFavi before and decided to introduce him to the titles published by Archaia.

"I showed Joe a bunch of the Archaia books we publish, such as Mouse Guard and The Killer and stuff like that," Christy told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "And he really liked them, and obviously, being a comic fan, he was already familiar with them. And the discussions just kind of went from there. At the end of the day, I think we all felt the quality of the Archaia brand made us a really good publishing partner for the kind of quality comic books Henson wants to produced."

"When Henson decided to take a more aggressive stance on publishing and use it as a platform to release new stories to the world," LeFavi added, "we wanted to find a partner that had that artistic integrity that will produce the level of quality that Henson fans expect from us. When we were going through Archaia's library, we saw their unwavering commitment to both story and the illustrations. They just had a very strong understanding of what it meant to be a visual storyteller. They just seemed like a really great partner for us."

The line will launch with a ***Fraggle Rock*** comic later this year. "There's a ***Fraggle Rock*** picture coming out in the near future, and there's going to be a whole new line of consumer products coming out – everything from shoes and apparel to storybooks. ***Fraggle Rock*** is becoming a very big part of who Henson is and the stories we're going to put out there," said LeFavi, who will serve as story editor of the Henson-Archaia comics. "So this is going to play a very big role in re-introducing ***Fraggle Rock*** to that new generation."

Christy said that more details of the Archaia-Henson deal will be made public later this summer. "We're definitely deep into discussions about all the different premises for the properties we're going to do," Christy said. "We're really going to be exploring those worlds in a new and fun way that we're hoping the fans of the originals will love, but also in a way that introduces new fans to the properties."


YOU MAY CALL YOURSELF WOLVERINE!
BUT THAT DOESN'T IMPRESS AN OCTOPUS--
WHO HAS EIGHT LIMBS!
MAKE THAT SEVEN!
!?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-23
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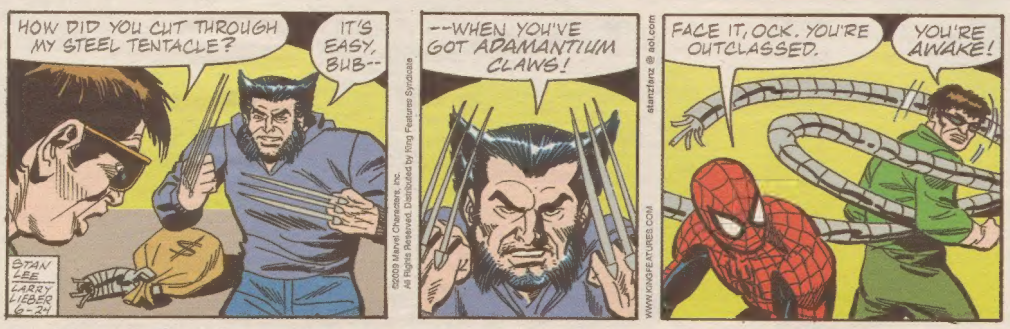
HOW DID YOU CUT THROUGH MY STEEL TENTACLE?
IT'S EASY, BUB--
--WHEN YOU'VE GOT ADAMANTIUM CLAWS!
FACE IT, OCK. YOU'RE OUTCLASSED.
YOU'RE AWAKE!
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